

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 14, 2002

IN RE:

**SMALL TELEPHONE COMPANIES TARIFF
FILINGS REGARDING RECLASSIFICATION
OF PAY TELEPHONE SERVICE AS REQUIRED
BY FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
(FCC) DOCKET 96-128**

**DOCKET NO.
97-01181**

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

This matter is before the Pre-Hearing Officer on the *Request of Coalition of Tennessee Small Local Exchange Companies for Extension of Time to File Comments and Rate Proposals as Directed by Notice of Filing Dated September 26, 2002* ("Request").

Background

On September 26, 2002, the Pre-Hearing Officer issued a Notice reconvening this docket and requiring each independent local exchange carrier ("LEC") that is a party to this action to file no later than October 14, 2002 comments and rate proposals for the provisioning of payphone access services to payphone service providers. Responses to this filing were due on October 24, 2002.

On October 9, 2002, the Coalition of Tennessee Small Local Exchange Companies ("Coalition") filed its Request, seeking an additional twenty (20) days in

which to file comments.¹ The Tennessee Payphone Owners Associations ("TPOA") filed a Response on October 11, 2002, asserting that it would not oppose a continuance of seven (7) to ten (10) days.

On October 11, 2002, the Pre-Hearing Officer issued a Notice informing the parties that he would hold a conference call on October 14, 2002 to address the issues raised in the Coalition's filing. On October 14, 2002, the Pre-Hearing Officer participated in the conference call with the Coalition and the TPOA.²

After considering the parties' arguments, the Pre-Hearing Officer granted the Coalition's Request. He directed the independent LECs to file their comments, rate proposals and justifications for rates no later than **Monday, November 4, 2002**. Responses thereto shall be filed no later than **Thursday, November 14, 2002**.

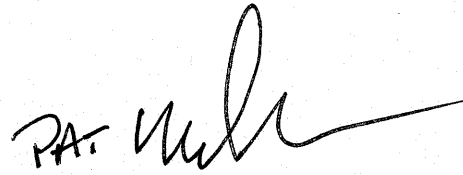
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The *Request of Coalition of Tennessee Small Local Exchange Companies for Extension of Time to File Comments and Rate Proposals as Directed by Notice of Filing Dated September 26, 2002* is granted.

¹ The Coalition consists of the following companies: Ardmore Telephone Company, Inc., the Century Tel, Inc. Companies in Tennessee (including Century Tel of Adamsville, Inc., Century Tel of Claiborne, Inc. and Century Tel of Ooltewah-Collegedale, Inc.), Loretto Telephone Company, Inc., the TDS Telecom Companies in Tennessee (including Concord Telephone Exchange, Inc., Humphreys County Telephone Company, Tellico Telephone Company, Inc. and Tennessee Telephone Company), the Telephone Electronics Corp. ("TEC") Companies in Tennessee (including Crockett Telephone Company, Inc., Peoples Telephone Company, Inc. and West Tennessee Telephone Company, Inc.) and United Telephone Company, Inc.

² Counsel for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Citizens Telecommunications of the Volunteer State informed the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") that they would not be participating in the conference call.

2. The independent local exchange carriers LECs shall file their comments, rate proposals and justifications for rates no later than **Monday, November 4, 2002**. Responses thereto shall be filed no later than **Thursday, November 14, 2002**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Miller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pat Miller, Pre-Hearing Officer